



## 2006 Fiscal Report

### Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

#### FY 2006 Wetlands Reserve Program Statewide Activities

Number of Applications Received.....	28
Number of Applications Contracted.....	8
Dollar Amount Approved.....	\$3,830,764
Acres under Contract.....	2,460

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

#### Vision

Productive Lands -  
Healthy Environment

#### Mission

Helping People Help the Land

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*"We have a lot of environmentally conscious landowners out there. WRP offers choices for landowners who have property that may not be best suited for production yet they don't want to convert it from agricultural uses."*

NRCS District Conservationist

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#### The Program

WRP is a voluntary land-retirement program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands.

#### The Partnership

The program provides landowners and Tribes an opportunity to receive financial incentives to restore and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring this land from agriculture.

Landowners and Tribes may file an application for a conservation easement or a cost-share restoration agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to restore and protect wetlands.

#### The Assistance

Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land, but retain private ownership. WRP offers landowners three enrollment options:

- ♦ Permanent Easement
- ♦ 30-year Easement
- ♦ Restoration Cost-Share Agreement

#### New Initiatives

The Colorado NRCS participated in two new national WRP initiatives, the WRP Enhancement Program and a pilot reverse auction bid process where WRP program applicants bid competitively on wetland easement values. Both initiatives were conducted in the San Luis Valley.